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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Subject: Initiation of Intelligence Estimate on the Strategic Importance of Sweden

Enclosure: Estimate, "Strategic Importance of Sweden" - Terms of Reference

1. Views recently expressed on the present situation in, and the strategic importance of Sweden, indicate the desirability of an assessment of the present strategic importance of Sweden. Propositions of interest in connection with this thesis were:

a. Importance of control of the Skagerrak and air bases in Norway and Sweden.

b. Existence of substantial and effective Swedish ground and air forces in being, together with respectable naval forces, capable of effective defense.

c. Political trend in Sweden away from traditional non-involvement policies.

d. Scandinavia as a possible key to the success or failure of Soviet forces in the event of general war.

e. Sweden as the key to Scandinavia.

2. Consideration of political and economic factors are essential to the preparation of a comprehensive estimate of the strategic importance of Sweden, and bring such an estimate properly within the purview of the Intelligence Advisory Committee.

3. The Joint Intelligence Committee has agreed to the above views, and therefore, on its behalf, I recommend that the Intelligence Advisory Committee, at its next regular meeting, consider undertaking the proposed estimate.

4. Suggested terms of reference as to the scope of the estimate, also agreed to by the Joint Intelligence Committee, are forwarded herewith in the Enclosure.

FELIX JOHNSON
Chairman

Copy to:
Secretary, JIC
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Joint Intelligence Committee

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